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AREI UPDATES: 1995 Cropland Use

Updates on Agricultural Resources and Environmental Indicators

Natural Resources and Environment Division
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Cropland Use Down, Crop Failure and Idled Cropland Up from 1994

- Cropland estimated to be harvested in 1995 totals 304 million acres, down from 310 million last year.
- Cropland idled in Federal programs is up slightly in 1995 but, except for 1994, is the least since 1986.
- Estimated crop failure is about 7 million acres, the same as 1994.

This issue of **AREI UPDATES** summarizes aggregate cropland estimates based largely on surveys conducted by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) during the first two weeks of June. Information on participation in the price support and production adjustment programs is based on the USDA's report of the Preliminary Results of 1995 Program Signup and on reports of participation in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

An estimated 333 million cropland acres are expected to be used for crops in 1995, down 6 million from 1994 (table 1). This decrease is accounted for primarily by slightly more cropland idled by annual crop programs, and a smaller area planted, largely as a result of flooding and extremely wet weather at planting time.

Harvest estimates of principal crops total 302 million acres, which, with minor crops, will likely raise total harvested acres to nearly 315 million acres. More than 11 million of

the harvested acres are estimated to be double-cropped. When double-cropped land is counted only once, cropland harvested will total nearly 304 million acres.

Estimated cropland harvested is up nearly 3 percent in the Southern Plains, Mountain, and Pacific regions. However, it is down more than 3 percent in the Lake States, Corn Belt, and Northern Plains regions. Crop failure is estimated to be up, especially in the Corn Belt.

Cropland idled by annual Federal crop programs was up 1 million acres in 1995. Crop base acres idled by the CRP are unchanged from last year. All of the program crops but corn and rice had a zero ARP for 1995. Therefore, all of the base acres idled in annual programs, except for corn and rice, are enrolled in the 0,50/85-92 programs (table 4). Part of the corn and rice acreage idled is enrolled in these programs as well.

Preliminary data on crop base flexing in 1995 indicates considerable acreage flexed out of corn into soybeans and out of wheat into other program crops and soybeans (table 5). As in past years, soybeans accounted for a large portion of the net change in cropland use from the flex provisions. Also as in earlier years, cotton was the only program crop with a net increase in acreage from the crop base flex.

Contact: Arthur Daugherty, NRED, (202) 219-0424.

About AREI UPDATES

AREI UPDATES is a periodic series that supplements and updates information in **Agricultural Resources and Environmental Indicators (AREI)**, USDA, ERS, AH-705, Dec. 1994. UPDATES report recent data from surveys of farm operators and others knowledgeable about changing agricultural resource use and conditions, with only minimal interpretation or analysis. Please contact the individual listed at the end of the text for additional information about the data in this UPDATE. If you would like to be added to the mailing list or have other questions about AREI UPDATES or AREI, contact Richard Magleby, (202) 219-0436.

Major Uses of U.S. Cropland

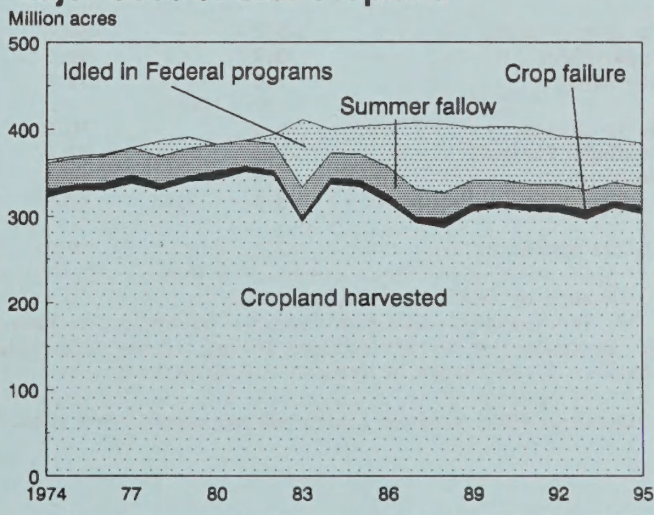


Table 1--Major uses of cropland, United States, 1986-95 1/

Cropland	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995 2/
Million acres										
Cropland used for crops	357	331	327	341	341	337	337	330	339	333
Cropland harvested 3/	316	293	287	306	310	306	305	297	310	304
Crop failure	9	6	10	8	6	7	8	11	7	7
Cultivated summer fallow	32	32	30	27	25	24	24	22	22	22
Cropland idled by all										
Federal programs 4/	48	76	78	61	62	65	55	60	49	50
Annual programs	46	60	53	31	28	30	20	23	13	14
Long-term programs	2	16	25	30	34	35	35	36	36	36
Total, specified uses 4/,5/	405	407	405	402	403	402	392	389	388	383

1/ Includes the 48 conterminous States. Fewer than 100,000 acres were used for the principal crops in Alaska and Hawaii. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ A double-cropped acre is counted as one acre. 4/ Breakdown may not add to totals due to rounding. 5/ Does not include cropland pasture or idle land not in Federal programs that is normally included in the total cropland base.

Source: USDA, various published and unpublished data.

Table 2--Cropland used for crops in 1995, and 1994-95 change, by region

Region	Cropland used for crops 1/				Share of all cropland used for crops
	Cropland harvested	Crop failure	Summer fallow	Total 2/	
1995:	Million acres				Percent
Northeast	10.5	0.2	-	10.7	3.2
Lake States	33.2	0.6	-	33.8	10.2
Corn Belt	77.8	1.4	-	79.2	23.8
Northern Plains	71.4	1.4	10.8	83.6	25.1
Appalachian	16.6	0.4	-	17.0	5.1
Southeast	10.3	0.4	-	10.7	3.2
Delta States	15.6	0.3	-	15.9	4.8
Southern Plains	27.2	1.7	0.7	29.6	8.9
Mountain	25.0	0.6	8.1	33.7	10.1
Pacific	16.0	0.3	2.4	18.6	5.6
United States 2/	303.6	7.3	22.0	332.9	100.0
1994-95 change:	Percent				
Northeast	-1.1	3.0	4/	-1.0	
Lake States	-3.8	21.2	4/	-3.4	
Corn Belt	-3.8	106.6	4/	-3.0	
Northern Plains	-5.2	-30.0	2.4	-4.8	
Appalachian	0.9	31.0	4/	1.4	
Southeast	1.0	-13.2	4/	1.2	
Delta States	-1.6	30.0	4/	-1.8	
Southern Plains	2.6	21.4	3.6	3.6	
Mountain	2.9	-0.3	1.2	2.4	
Pacific	3.0	37.5	-1.0	2.8	
United States 2/,3/	-2.1	9.2	1.6	-1.7	

- = None or fewer than 50,000 acres.

1/ Preliminary. Based on farmers' intentions to harvest. 2/ Breakdown may not add to totals due to rounding. 3/ Includes the 48 conterminous States. Fewer than 100,000 acres were used for the principal crops in Alaska and Hawaii. 4/ No change or less than 0.05 percent.

Source: USDA, various published and unpublished data.

Table 3--Cropland idled under Federal acreage reduction programs, by region, 1986-95

Region	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995 1/
Million acres										
Northeast	0.5	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.5
Lake States	4.2	7.0	6.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.0	5.6	3.4	4.1
Corn Belt	8.5	15.3	13.9	8.8	9.0	8.2	7.3	10.0	6.0	8.1
Northern Plains	14.3	19.7	20.8	15.8	16.8	18.4	14.8	15.0	12.5	13.1
Appalachian	1.3	2.7	3.0	2.3	2.3	2.1	1.9	2.1	1.7	1.7
Southeast	1.3	3.0	3.2	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.6	2.3
Delta States	2.4	3.5	3.1	3.0	2.6	2.7	2.2	2.4	2.1	1.9
Southern Plains	8.3	11.7	12.0	10.0	9.8	11.0	9.0	9.1	8.8	7.9
Mountain	5.4	8.7	10.2	9.1	9.6	10.5	9.3	9.1	8.8	8.6
Pacific	2.2	3.5	3.8	3.2	3.1	3.6	3.1	2.9	2.8	2.6
United States 2/ 3/	48.1	76.2	77.7	60.8	61.6	64.5	54.9	59.8	49.2	50.8

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Includes the 48 conterminous States. Because of rounding, regional data may not sum to U.S. totals. 3/ Includes cropland idled in 0,50/85-92 programs. Does not include about 0.5 million acres in 1991, 0.7 million acres in 1992, 0.8 million acres in 1993, 1.6 million acres in 1994, and 1.3 million acres in 1995 enrolled in 0,50/85-92 programs and planted to minor oilseeds. Also includes 2.0 million acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program in 1986, 15.7 million acres enrolled in 1987, 24.5 million acres enrolled in 1988, 29.8 million acres enrolled in 1989, 33.9 million acres enrolled in 1990, 34.4 million acres enrolled in 1991, 35.4 million acres enrolled in 1992, and 36.4 million acres enrolled in 1993, 1994, and in 1995.

Source: USDA, CFSA, various published and unpublished data.

Table 4--Cropland idled under Federal acreage reduction programs by crop base acres, conterminous United States, 1986-95

Program and crop	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995 1/
Million acres										
Annual programs, base acres:										
Corn	14.2	23.2	20.5	10.8	10.7	7.4	5.2	10.7	2.0	6.2
Sorghum	2.9	4.1	3.9	3.3	3.3	2.4	2.0	2.2	1.6	1.4
Barley	2.0	3.0	2.8	2.3	2.9	2.1	2.3	2.2	2.1	1.9
Oats	0.5	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.5
Wheat	21.0	23.9	22.5	9.6	7.5	15.6	7.3	5.4	4.6	3.8
Cotton	4.0	3.9	2.2	3.5	2.0	1.2	1.7	1.4	1.7	0.2
Rice	1.5	1.6	1.1	1.2	1.0	0.9	0.4	0.7	0.3	0.5
Total, annual programs 2/	46.1	60.5	53.3	30.9	27.7	30.1	19.5	23.4	12.8	14.4
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), base acres: 3/										
Corn	0.2	2.3	2.8	3.4	3.8	3.9	4.1	4.3	4.3	4.3
Sorghum	0.2	1.2	1.9	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5
Barley	0.1	1.1	1.9	2.4	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8
Oats	0.1	0.5	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
Wheat	0.6	4.2	7.1	8.8	10.3	10.4	10.6	10.8	10.8	10.8
Cotton	0.1	0.7	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
Rice	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/
Total CRP-idled base acres	1.2	10.0	15.5	19.0	21.8	22.0	22.6	23.3	23.3	23.3
Total base acres idled 2/	47.4	70.5	68.8	49.9	49.5	52.1	42.1	46.7	36.1	37.7
Total CRP-idled nonbase acres	0.7	5.7	8.9	10.9	12.1	12.4	12.8	13.2	13.2	13.2
Total cropland idled under Federal programs 2/	48.1	76.2	77.7	60.8	61.6	64.5	54.9	59.8	49.2	50.8

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Because of rounding, crop acreages may not sum to the totals. Base acreages idled under 0,50/85-92 programs from 1986 through 1992 are included in annual program data. However, base acres of program crops enrolled in 0,50/85-92 and planted to oilseeds in 1991 (0.5 million acres), in 1992 (0.7 million acres), in 1993 (1.0 million acres), in 1994 (1.6 million acres), and in 1995 (1.3 million acres) are not included. 3/ Program began in 1986. Small acreages of peanut and tobacco base were bid into the CRP in addition to the crops listed. 4/ Less than 50,000 acres.

Source: USDA, CFSA, various published and unpublished data.

Table 5--Use of crop base flex area by program crop, United States, 1995 1/

1995 use of flex area	Program crop base acreage flexed							Total 2/
	Corn	Sorghum	Barley	Oats	Wheat	Cotton	Rice	
	Thousand acres							
Flexed from other program crops	895	365	93	57	831	498	23	2,762
Flexed to other program crops	-479	-349	-342	-277	-1,370	-143	-60	-3,019
Flexed to nonprogram crops:								
Soybeans	-1,838	-165	-52	-31	-534	-43	-162	-2,824
Minor oilseeds	-41	-6	-55	-15	-175	-2	-5	-298
Other nonprogram crops	-105	-20	-59	-16	-301	-20	-21	-541
Subtotal, nonprogram crops 2/	-1,983	-190	-167	-62	-1,010	-65	-187	-3,663
Net change from flex provisions 2/	-1,568	-175	-415	-281	-1,549	290	-223	-3,921
Normal flex acres 3/	-9,462	-1,545	-1,324	-448	-9,882	-1,832	-580	-25,072
Optional flex acres 4/	-6,308	-1,030	-883	-298	-6,588	-1,222	-386	-16,715
Total flex acres possible 2/	-15,770	-2,575	-2,206	-746	-16,470	-3,055	-966	-41,788

1/ A negative number indicates the area flexed (or available for flexing) out of the crop heading the column to another crop. A positive number indicates the area flexed into the crop heading the column from another program crop. 2/ Distributions may not add to totals due to rounding. 3/ Normal flex acres were computed as 15 percent of enrolled base acres of the program crops. 4/ Optional flex acres could be up to an additional two-thirds of the normal flex acres (10 percent of enrolled base acres).

Source: USDA, OC, "USDA Announces Results of 1995 Program Signup," Release No. 0509.95, June 21, 1995.

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Natural Resources and Environment Division
1301 New York Ave., NW., Rm. 524
Washington, DC 20005-4788

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